

# REFORMS FOR CUBA DO NOT LOOSEN SPAIN'S GRIP.

Islanders Would Merely Carry Out Cortes' Orders.  
Spain to Dictate the Budget and Treaties.  
Its Own Men in Administrative Council.

Decree Provides That There Shall Be No "Favored Nation" Clause in Any Treaty—Officials Who Work Under Governor-General Must Be Actual Residents of the Island, but Need Not Be Cubans—Reforms to Go Into Effect When It Is "Possible."



Premier Canovas del Castillo.

The Prime Minister of Spain, who promulgated the decree granting reforms to the island of Cuba.

Madrid, Feb. 5.—A full abstract of the proposed reforms for Cuba and Porto Rico, approved by the Queen Regent, will be promulgated to-morrow in the official Gazette.

The Ministry regards them as being as comprehensive a measure of home rule as can be granted under the existing conditions. It is stated that some of them infringed so much upon the rights belonging to the Ministry in regard to the colonies that it will be necessary to submit them to the Cortes before they can be put into effect.

The most striking features of the new reforms which have not yet been announced relate to the management of the finances of Cuba. The Council of Administration of thirty-five members will be constituted, as already announced, of twenty-one members elected directly by the people, nine chosen from the commercial and educational societies of Havana, and five from the ex-members of the Cortes from Cuba who have been elected the greatest number of times.

The Council of Administration is given large powers in regard to the framing of the tariff and the budget. They are to frame the tariff within certain fixed rules prescribed by the home Government, and subject to the condition that a provisional tariff shall be promulgated by the Minister for the Colonies, pending the organization of the machinery of the new Cuban government.

The essential condition upon which the Government insists is that a differential tariff of not more than 20 per cent in favor of Spanish products shall be imposed upon certain articles, principally articles of Spanish manufacture, which are to be named by the Government.

The tariff will consist of two columns, one being the uniform revenue rate levied upon the products of all countries, and the other the differential rate in favor of Spain, levied upon certain articles to be named by the Government, but in no case to exceed 20 per cent of the value of the articles.

The proposed reforms deal also with the question of reciprocity treaties, which may be made for Cuba distinct from treaties relating to Spain, and which will be framed by the home Government upon consultation with the Cuban Council of Administration.

Provisions are also made for the appointment of employees by the Governor-General, who must be born in Cuba or be Spaniards who have resided at least two years in the island.

These appointments will be made in most cases with the consent of the Council of Administration. Provision is made for the extension of the power of the municipal governing boards, and for the appointment of municipal judges by the members of the municipalities.

The new reforms are to go into effect as soon as they have received the approval of the Cortes, and as soon as the state of the island will permit.

The decree approved by the Queen Regent is substantially as follows:

Article I. The laws of March 15, 1895, will be amplified. The municipalities and assemblies of the six provinces of the island of Cuba (Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas, Santa Clara, Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba) will enjoy all the liberties compatible with the laws and the respect of individual rights.

The Assembly will have the right to elect their presidents. In each Assembly there will be an Executive Committee, elected by the Assembly, every six months, and its president will be elected by said committee.

The mayors and deputy mayors will be elected by the municipalities from among the members. They will exercise, without limitation, the functions of municipal administration.

The provincial assemblies will have the right to suspend the decision of the municipalities when they go beyond the limits of the municipal rights, but in this case the municipalities will have the right of appeal to the highest court of the province.

The provincial assemblies will have large powers in matters of taxes, in accordance with the general and local system of taxation.

The appropriations for the provinces and municipalities will be separate.

The Council of Administration of the island will be composed of thirty-five councillors; twenty-one of them will be elected directly by the people; nine will be as follows:

The president of the University of Havana.  
The president of the Chamber of Commerce of Havana.  
The president of the Economical Societies of Havana.

The president of the Planters' Association.  
The president of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Union, one member representing the chapters of the cathedrals of Havana and of Santiago de Cuba; one representing all the trades associations of Havana; two designated among the taxpayers of the Province of Havana.

The other five will be Senators or Representatives to the Cortes. The Governor-General will be honorary president of the Council, and the actual president will be nominated by the Governor-General from among the members of the Council.

In order to be elected Councillor it is necessary to have the same qualifications as are required to be Deputy to the Cortes, and it is necessary to have resided two years in the island.

The Cortes will determine the amount of the expenses of sovereignty (imperial expenses), and will determine the total of the budget. To meet that



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QUEEN REGENT  
OF SPAIN

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She signed the decree granting reforms to the island of Cuba.

amount the Council of Administration will vote every year the taxes and revenues necessary to supply the expenses approved by the Cortes. Only in the case of the Council of Administration not having approved and voted by the 1st of July the taxes and revenues necessary to meet the budget approved by the Cortes, the Governor-General will "decree" them, with the advice of the Intendents.

The Council of Administration will frame and approve the local budget. The establishment of educational institutions to qualify for Governmental positions, excepting for those of the army and navy, will pertain to the Council of Administration.

The powers of the Council of Administration as regards the customs tariff will be as follows:

First—It will fix all customs duties.  
Second—It will decide upon all taxes on exports.

Third—It will modify the fiscal duties for revenue on imports in the island, subject to these modifications:

1. National products directly imported to Cuba will enjoy the indispensable protection, taking into consideration that the taxes on foreign products will be for revenue only.

2. Taxes for revenue established by the Council of Administration will be applied alike to foreign and to national products.

3. Taxes on exports will be equally levied, and will not be differential; but it will be possible to exempt from these rules the direct exports to Spain for home consumption.

4. No prohibition on exports will be imposed upon products directly exported for home consumption in Spain.

The customs tariff will consist of two parts: One for revenue only, equally applied, and in the same proportion to foreign and home products, and the other will consist of differential duties imposed on all foreign products, and in this there will be a margin of protection for the national industry, with a maximum that the Cortes will establish.

The Government will fix, for the first time, the articles

of the tariff which will make up the differential columns. The taxes will not exceed 20 per cent of the value of the articles.

The Government will decree a revision of the official valuation of merchandise, after hearing all those interested pro and con.

The immediate realization of all the conditions established in these rules being impossible, the Minister of the Colonies, in accordance with the law of June 28, 1895, will publish a provisional tariff on these lines, in order to avoid delay in the reform of the tariff laws.

The commercial treaties or conventions affecting the tariff of Cuba will be special. In order to establish reciprocity there will not be in them THE MOST FAVORED NATION CLAUSE, or its equivalent.

The Council of Administration will be consulted as to the advisability of negotiating commercial treaties and conventions, which it is the intention of the Government to negotiate, and this will be done before the final drafting of the treaty and its presentation for the approval of the Cortes.

The Council of Administration will respect mutual pending contracts, and at the expiration of the same will have the right to accept or to repeal them. The Council will also have the power of enforcing in the island the Treasury laws of the peninsula so far as regards a contract with the Bank of Cuba.

A special decree, which will be submitted to the Cortes, will contain the disposition for the maintenance of public order and the suppression of secessionist movements.

Article II. provides that the Government will embody in a single decree the present rules and those of the laws of May 15, 1895, developing both in by-laws, which shall not change the strict sense of the present decree.

Article III. enacts that the above mentioned rules will apply also to Puerto Rico.

Article IV. provides that the date for the application to Cuba of the law of 1895, and of the present decree to Cuba and Puerto Rico, shall be fixed by the Government as soon as the state of the war will permit it.

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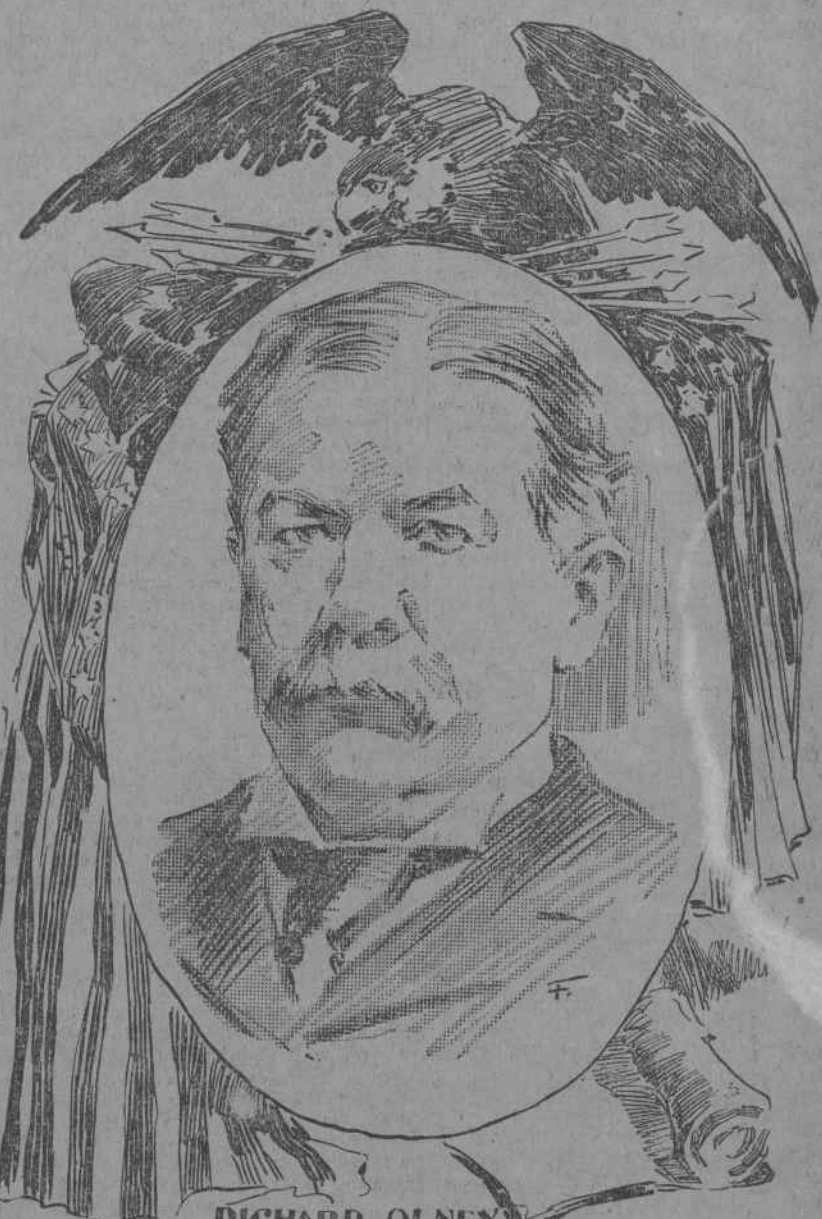
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RICHARD OLNEY

Secretary of State Olney.

The draft of the proposed reforms which Spain will grant to Cuba was first submitted to the American Premier.

## WILL PUSH THE WAR IN EGYPT.

Great Britain to Ignore the Wishes of France and Russia.

## TO MOVE ON KHARTOUM.

Government Demands a Large Sum with Which to Carry on Hostilities.

London, Feb. 5.—Great Britain intends to carry on the war in Egypt with a vigorous hand. The next move of the Anglo-Egyptian troops will be on Khartoum. The Government's policy will be opposed at every step by the Liberals.

In the House of Commons to-day Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that a further advance of Egyptian troops would be made toward Khartoum next season.

As regarded the action of the Egyptian tribunal, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach continued, Great Britain would not be moved from her policy when her mind was made up. He then moved a resolution granting the sum of £708,000 to meet the total cost of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition to Dongola, including the maintenance of the garrisons at Suakin and elsewhere in the Sudan and the Indian troops in Egypt, which Great Britain would pay.

A Long Occupation.

The action of the mixed court of appeal in upsetting the judgment of the Egyptian Public Debt Commission in regard to setting aside certain Egyptian funds toward the expense of the Dongola expedition, he said, was calculated to prolong British occupation of Egypt. Great Britain had advanced the money to pay Egypt's share of the expenses, leaving Great Britain and Egypt to mutually decide when the sum should be repaid.

John Morley, Liberal, said that the remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer amounted to a challenge to France and Russia to take issue with Great Britain in the latter's Egyptian policy. In view of the sensitive condition of Europe at the present time, he declared, nothing more rash could be uttered.

Sir Charles Dilke, Liberal, denounced the Egyptian policy of the Government.

Criticized by Harcourt.

Sir William Harcourt, the leader of the Opposition, expressed regret at the unwise language and gratuitous provocation of the powers which characterized the remarks of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach.

George N. Curzon, Under Foreign Secretary, said that the Egyptian policy of Sir Michael's language, and denied that it was in any way intended as a menace to France.

Stanley, the African explorer, Unionist Member for North Lamberth, said that Great Britain was only doing in Egypt what Russia was doing in Siberia and France was doing between the Senegal and the Niger rivers in Africa.

Sir Michael said that the occupation of Egypt by Great Britain had been prolonged because France had not allowed the British to have as free a hand as was necessary. Great Britain, he added, intended to occupy Egypt until that country was able to do without her. Moreover, it would be necessary to reconsider the powers and authority of the Egyptian mixed tribunals and to decide whether they should be allowed to interfere in such affairs as the cost of the recent Anglo-Egyptian expedition.

After some further discussion the resolution submitted by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was adopted by a vote of 169 to 57.

In the lobby of the House there was much comment upon the anti-French tone of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and surprise was expressed by a number of members that he should have spoken as he did.

The speech was thought to have such significance that the full text was telegraphed to Paris this evening.

From the North to the South Dr. Bell's Cough Syrup is the preventive of colds.—Advt.

## CHRISTIANS SLAIN BY MUSSULMANS.

Terrible Massacre Going On in the Island of Crete.

## TOWN OF CANEA IN FLAMES

Turkish Soldiers Shooting and Burning the Helpless People.

London, Feb. 5.—A dispatch from Athens says that desperate fighting has taken place between the Christians and Mohammedans in the island of Crete. The Mussulmans have set fire to the city of Canea, and the place is now burning.

The city is in a state of anarchy, and a Christian is safe nowhere. Many Christians who had locked themselves in their houses were driven out by the flames only to meet death at the hands of the Turkish soldiers, who shot them down at sight.

A number of Christians have succeeded in finding refuge on the warships in the harbor, but the outlook for those still in the city is very precarious.

The situation is so critical that marines have been landed from the British and French warships to protect the consulates of their respective governments.

The Christian quarters in Canea have been almost destroyed. The various consulates are crowded with fugitives.

The dispatch further says that fully three hundred persons have been killed in Canea. Many of them lost their lives while attempting to reach the warships.

General Colby Begins the Recruiting of 15,000 Men—Company Raised in Washington.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Forty-two men attended a meeting in Washington this evening to organize Company A, District of Columbia, Volunteers, of the American Volunteer Legion. Their object is to go to Cuba and aid in freeing the island. The whole forty-two enlisted, and every one is an ex-member of the National Guard, of the regular army, or has seen service in the Army or Navy.

General L. W. Colby, of Beatrice, Neb., is at the head of the Volunteer Legion, and it is his purpose to raise 15,000 men for four months' service. They are to be armed with Springfield rifles and drill with the standard tactics of the United States Army.

It is not expected to move this army until Cleveland is out of office. It is claimed the men will get into Cuba before March 15.

CUBANS BUY A PLANTATION.

Big Florida Sugar Estate Purchased by a Syndicate.

Kissimmee, Fla., Feb. 5.—The extensive St. Cloud sugar plantation, near this place, has been purchased by a syndicate of Cubans. The capacity of the sugar mill will be doubled at once, and 2,000 acres of cane will be planted next fall.

The St. Cloud plantation was established by the late Hamilton Disston, of Philadelphia, who undertook the development of sugar growing in Florida on a large scale. He invested a quarter of a million dollars in a sugar mill. The Cubans will take possession as soon as the conveyance papers have been completed.

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